

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 /020 W

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P 141439Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 49

UNCLAS SOFIA 1699

FOR EUR/EE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, EGEN, BTRA, BU, US

SUBJECT: JOINT U.S. BULGARIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO EDWARD T. WILSON, U. S. CHAMBSN
OF COMMERCE, FROM AMBASSADOR:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: UNDERSTAND YOU ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH
BULGARIAN CHAMBER ABOUT SCHEDULE FOR JOINT COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1/2 AND THAT DRAFT PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN TELEXED
TO YOU AND MR. MAY AUGUST 12. WITHOUT WISHING IN ANY WAY
TO INTERFERE IN THESE ARRANGEMENTS, THOUGHT YOU MAY WISH TO
HAVE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS OR QUERIES WHICH EMERGED FROM DIS-
CUSSION WITH CHAIRMAN PENKOV AUG 13:

A. AS YOU KNOW, WHEN I WAS IN WASHINGTON IN MAY I
AGREED TO HOST AN INFORMAL COCKTAIL AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE
ON AUGUST 31 FOR AMERICAN SIDE ONLY, TO GET ACQUAINTED AND
FOR GENERAL ORIENTATION. SINCE BULGARIANS HAVE SCHEDULED
A RECEPTION TO BE GIVEN BY ME SEPTEMBER 1, DO YOU WISH TO
MAINTAIN THE AUG 31 AFFAIR?

B. ALTERNATIVELY, THE AMERICAN SECTION COULD ACT
AS HOST AT RECEPTION FOR BULGARIAN DELEGATION ON EVENING
SEPTEMBER 1, WICH COULD BE HELD EITHER AT ONE OF MAJOR
HOTELS IN SOFIA OR AT THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE. WE CAN
HANDLE TWO RECEPTIONS IN A ROW AT THE RESIDENCE, BUT I
DON'T THINK I SHOULD HOST BOTH OF THEM.

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C. PENKOV INVITED ME TO ATTEND OPENING SESSION AND MAKE A FEW REMARKS TO COUNCIL. I HAVE NOT ACCEPTED THIS AS WOULD FIRST LIKE TO KNOW IF THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MR. MAY'S CONCEPT OF THE MEETING.

D. RE ACCOMMODATIONS, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT WHILE 28 ROOMS HAVE BEEN RESERVED AT GRAND SOFIA HOTEL FOR NIGHTS AUGUST 31 TO SEPTEMBER 2, AND ADDITIONAL HOTEL SPACE COULD STILL BE FOUND IN SOFIA EVEN LATER, PLOVDIV AT FAIR-TIME IS DIFFERENT SITUATION WITH HOUSING EXTREMELY TIGHT. THEREFORE, THOSE MEMBERS OF U.S. DELEGATION WHO WISH TO STAY IN PLOVDIV OVERNIGHT SHOULD MAKE THIS KNOWN PROMPTLY SO THAT YOU CAN REQUEST HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS THERE THROUGH PENKOV AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

E. INCIDENTALLY, ALL MEMBERS OF US GROUP WHO PLAN DAY TRIP TO PLOVDIV FAIR SEPT 3 - WHICH SHOULD BE ONE OF HIGH POINTS OF THE VISIT -- SHOULD BE PREPARED TO GET UP EARLY THAT DAY AS BUS IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE AT 0630 HOURS, AND TO RETURN TO SOFIA LATE THAT EVENING.

F. PENKOV ALSO SAID HE PLANS TO ARRANGE THAT A NUMBER OF PAVILIONS WILL BE HELD OPEN AFTER THE NORMAL 1800 CLOSING HOUR SEPT 3 TO ALLOW FOR SPECIAL VISTS BY THE DELEGATION, AND HE HIMSELF WILL BE PLEASED TO HOST A DINNER THAT EVENING FOR THOSE DELEGATES REMAINING IN PLOVDIV. END QUOTE

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING MADE INFORMATION ADDRESSEE OF MR. WILSON'S TELEX TO PENKOV AND HOPES TO RECEIVE SEPARATE REACTION THROUGH DEPARTMENT TO PARA 2 B AND C ABOVE.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SOFIA01699
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750281-0494
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750852/aaaabtrf.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JAN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <23 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT U.S. BULGARIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL
TAGS: EEW, EGEN, BTRA, BU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006